

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04886 121251Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1590

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 4886

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL US-PAKISTAN MEETING

REF: STATE 107669

1. I CONVEYED POINTS IN REFTEL TO MFA DIRGEN HYDER ON MAY 12. I EMPHASIZED THAT WE HOPED GOP COULD GIVE US AN EARLY RESPONSE SINCE SCHEDULES OF BOTH SECRETARY VANCE AND AZIZ AHMED WERE LIKELY TO BE VERY HEAVY AT CIEC MEETING. DR. HYDER SAID THAT MFA HAD NOT YET RECEIVED AMBASSADOR YAQUB'S REPORT, BUT SHE WOULD CONVEY OUR POSITION TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY RIGHT AWAY.

2. I ALSO USED THE OCCASION TO REITERATE POINTS IN REFTEL ON VOA. DR. HYDER ACCEPTED MY REMARKS WITHOUT REJOINDER. SHE NOTED THAT WHEN SHE HAD REMINDED FOREIGN SECRETARY TODAY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF OBJECTIONABLE VOA BROADCASTS, HE HAD NOTED A RECENT ITEM IN WHICH VOA ALLEGEDLY REPORTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD "CALLED OFF" TALKS WITH GOP. I ASKED THAT WE BE SHOWN THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ITEM IN QUESTION AND SHE SAID SHE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. I NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOMETIMES DIFFICULTIES WITH TRANSLATIONS INTO ENGLISH FROM VOA URDU BROADCASTS AND
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SHE ACCEPTED THE POINT.

3. I THEN RAISED WITH DR. HYDER THE CONTINUED PUBLICATION OF THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PAKISTAN TIMES OF ARTICLES BY H.K. BURKI AND ZENO WHICH ARE VIOLENTLY AND VITUPERATIVELY ANTI-AMERICAN (BURKI HAD AN ESPECIALLY NASTY ONE TODAY WHICH ASSERTED THAT ALL AMERICANS IN PAKISTAN--AID,

FOUNDATIONS, EMBASSY, USIS--ARE ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. ANTICIPATING HER ARGUMENT THAT BURKI AND ZENO ARE NOT SUBJECT TO OFFICIAL CONTROL, I SAID THAT THEIR PUBLICATIONS IN A NATIONAL PRESS TRUST PAPER SUBJECT TO OFFICIAL GUIDANCE COULD ONLY BE CONSTRUED BY THE EMBASSY AND IN WASHINGTON AS HAVING AT LEAST OFFICIAL ACQUIESENCE. I NOTED THAT CONTINUATION OF THESE ARTICLES COULD WELL HAVE A HARMFUL EFFECT ON OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WE COULD UNDERTAKE A DIALOGUE TO RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES. AFTER REPLYING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE A "CREDIBILITY PROBLEM" IF THE ALLEGATIONS WERE SUDDENLY DROPPED, DR. HYDER SAID SHE WOULD RELAY MY VIEWS ON THESE ARTICLES TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

4. MY TALK WITH DR. HYDER TOOK PLACE IN A MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE THAN ANY CONVERSATION I HAVE HAD WITH ANY SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL SINCE BHUTTO'S APRIL 28 SPEECH. IN AN OPEN GIVE-AND-TAKE ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGES, DR. HYDER DID NOT DEVIATE FROM THE ESSENTIAL POINT OF THE OFFICIAL LINE, BUT SHE SPOKE WITHOUT VEHEMENCE AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO "MASSIVE EVIDENCE". THE MAIN THRUST OF HER ARGUMENT WAS THAT A SERIES OF EVENTS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO BHUTTO'S DECISION TO SPEAK OUT ON APRIL 28. THESE INCLUDED : (A) ALLEGED U.S. PRESSURE IN 1966 TO FORCE THE REMOVAL OF BHUTTO AS FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER AYUB; (B) PRESSURES ON THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE GOING BACK A YEAR AND (C) THE SUSPENSION OF TEAR GAS SHIPMENTS. TO MY REJOINDER THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS
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PROVIDED NEITHER MOTIVATION NOR EVIDENCE FOR ALLEGED EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT, DR. HYDER SMILED AND LOWERED HER EYELIDS. IT IS EVIDENT TO ME AND TO OTHERS IN THE EMBASSY THAT DR. HYDER AND MANY OF HER MFA COLLEAGUES (A FEW HAVE EXPLICITLY SAID SO) DO NOT BELIEVE THE PM'S CHARGES, BUT ARE STUCK WITH THE JOB OF PUTTING THEM IN SOME PERSPECTIVE THEY CAN TRY TO LIVE WITH.
CONSTABLE

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